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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report examines statewide trends in the well-being of Iowa's children. The statistical portrait is based on eight indicators of well-being: (1) infant mortality; (2) low birth weight; (3) child deaths; (4) teen violent deaths; (5) births to teens; (6) teen unmarried births; (7) foster care; and (8) high school graduation. Following an introduction describing the goals of the Iowa Kids Count Initiative, Part 1 of the report provides census information on child poverty in Iowa. Part 2 provides a 10-year statewide trend analysis on key well-being indicators. Part 3 of the report summarized the work of the Leadership Collaborative, including conducting regional meetings to establish an agenda for 1993 focusing on state public policies for young children. The report indicates that over the past 10 years, well-being declined significantly as shown by rates of low birth weight, births to 16- and 17-year-olds, teen unmarried births, and foster care increases. Only the infant mortality rate improved. Little change was evident in child death rate, teen violent death rate, and high school graduation rate. Findings further indicate that 14 percent of children lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty level, with considerable county differences and higher child poverty rates in rural counties and for very young children. (KB)

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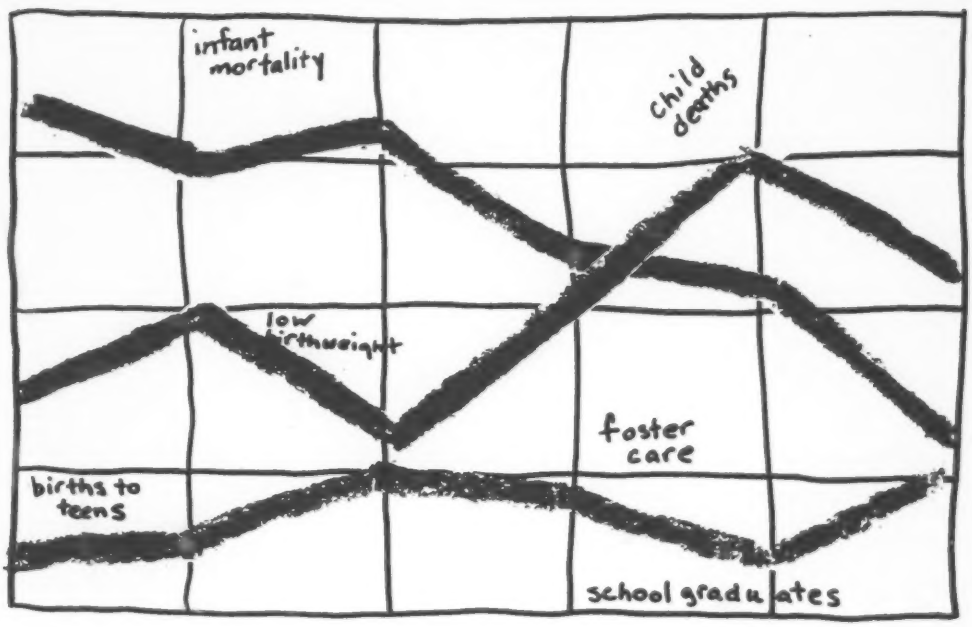

INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING FOR IOWA CHILDREN

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IOWA KIDS COUNT

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INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING FOR IOWA CHILDREN

1992

Iowa Kids Count is affiliated with National Kids Count
and funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Iowa Kids Count Initiative is funded by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which also supports a national Kids Count data book tracking trends in child well-being across the fifty states. Iowa was one of the first eight state projects funded and 1993 will mark the third year of the Iowa Kids Count Initiative. The Iowa Kids Count Initiative is administered by the Child and Family Policy Center with a steering committee composed of representatives from the Iowa State University Extension Service, the Iowa State Library, the Commission on Children, Youth and Families, the Office of the Governor, and the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Table of Contents

Introduction: Challenging Trends 1

Part One: Child Poverty in Iowa 3

- Child Poverty in Iowa 4
- Trends in Child Poverty 6
- Poverty Among the Very Young — Single Parent Families 8
- Poverty By Age Groupings 10
- The Impact of Poverty on Well-Being 12

Part Two: Decade-Long Trends in Child Well-Being 14

- Infant Mortality 18
- Low Birthweight 18
- Child Deaths 19
- Teen Violent Deaths 20
- Births to Teens 20
- Teen Unmarried Births 21
- Foster Care 22
- High School Graduation 22
- Rural, Small Urban & Metropolitan County Comparisons 23

Part Three: The Leadership Collaborative — Setting an Agenda for Action 24

- Leadership Collaborative Members 27

Acknowledgements and For Further Information 28

Introduction: Challenging Trends

The Iowa Kids Count Initiative has two major goals:

- To track and present important trends in child well-being in Iowa, and
- To mobilize Iowa leaders to develop results-oriented, outcome-based policies to improve child well-being in Iowa.

To achieve the first goal, the Initiative produces and disseminates an annual data book, and publishes a *Kids Count Quarterly Report*. *Challenging Trends* is the second annual data book produced by Iowa Kids Count.

To achieve the second goal, the Initiative works with a broad-based Kids Count Leadership Collaborative, composed of one hundred and twenty Iowa leaders, in defining policy issues and policy responses vital to the well-being of Iowa children.

Last year's Iowa Kids Count data book, *World-Class Futures*, both presented important data on the well-being of Iowa children at a state and a county level and provided vision statements prepared by the Leadership Collaborative on what Iowans want to see for children at different developmental stages and in response to different societal demands. This year's data book, *Challenging Trends*, provides additional data and analysis on the well-being of Iowa's children, as well as updates of the data on eight specific indicators of child well-being found in *World-Class Futures*. It also summarizes the work of the Leadership Collaborative during 1992 and spells out the Collaborative's goals for 1993.

Challenging Trends is divided into three parts, the first two providing data on Iowa children and the third summarizing the work of the Leadership Collaborative.

"Part One: Child Poverty in Iowa" provides important census information on child poverty in Iowa, data not released by the Census Bureau at the time of publication of last year's book. Since poverty has such a profound impact upon child well-being, these trend data are regarded as particularly important for policy formation.

"Part Two: Decade-Long Trends in Child Well-Being" provides a ten-year statewide trend analysis on eight key indicators of child well-being. These indicators, also presented in *World-Class Futures*, include health, educational and social dimensions of child well-being:

- Infant mortality
- Low birthweight
- Child deaths
- Teen violent deaths
- Births to 16- and 17-year-olds
- Teen unmarried births
- Foster care
- High school graduation

The trends presented in this analysis are ones that should challenge Iowa leaders.

The trends presented in this analysis are ones that should challenge Iowa leaders. On four of the eight measures (low birthweight, births to 16- and 17-year-olds, teen unmarried births, and foster care), the well-being of Iowa children has declined significantly. On only one (infant mortality) has it improved. On the remaining three (child deaths, teen violent deaths and high school graduation), child well-being has shown little change.

In addition to providing trend data, county-by-county data on these indicators also are provided. This information updates and complements much of the information provided in *World-Class Futures*.

"Part Three: Setting an Agenda for Action" reports on the activities of the Iowa Kids Count Leadership Collaborative for the year. Through eight regional meetings, the Leadership Collaborative helped establish an agenda for 1993 that will focus upon state public policies for children in their most formative, early years. The goal is to produce a "Blueprint for Iowa's Young" that can become part of state policy debates in 1994 and beyond. The Leadership Collaborative will sponsor a summer Kids Count Summit to more thoroughly define and determine a course of action for the themes expressed in this Blueprint.

Part One:
Child Poverty in Iowa

The effects of poverty upon the well-being of children of all ages are profound. At a societal level, poverty has a strong impact upon child health, child educational performance, and child social adjustment and happiness.

While many children whose families live in poverty excel and most grow into productive adults and leaders, research has consistently shown that children living in poverty are at much greater risk than their peers in failing to thrive. Moreover, this impact of poverty is not limited to economic deprivation. Poverty produces stress and hopelessness within families that limits parental capacity to provide support and a nurturing home environment for their children.

Over the last two decades in the United States, while significant gains have been made in combatting poverty among the nation's senior citizens, child poverty increased by 18.5%. According to the 1990 Census, almost one in five children in the United States (17.9%) were poor. Children are now the age group in society most likely to be poor.

The increase in child poverty rates in the United States between 1970 and 1990 cannot be attributed to economic cycles. Instead, it is related to two important, long-term trends: the stagnation in adult wages (when adjusted for inflation) and the increase in the proportion of children living in single-parent families.

While the percentage of child poverty in Iowa (14.0%) is below that of the nation as a whole, Iowa's rate has been growing and is catching up with the national rate. Like the national trend, Iowa's children represent that age group in Iowa most likely to be poor. Because poverty has such an impact upon the overall well-being of children, several sets of data are provided that describe child poverty in Iowa.

Child Poverty in Iowa — 1990. Of the 705,446 related children living in Iowa, 98,463 live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.

Trends in Child Poverty. Between 1980 and 1990, the child poverty rate increased more rapidly in Iowa, by over 20%, than in the country as a whole.

Poverty Among the Very Young — Single Parent Families. Nearly two-thirds of all female headed households with infants and toddlers (0-4 years of age) live in poverty in Iowa, four times the rate for all families.

Poverty By Age Groupings. In Iowa, the poverty rate among children is one-quarter higher than it is for senior citizens and over one-third higher than working age adults (age 18-64).

The Impact of Poverty on Well-Being. In high poverty areas in Iowa, children are at much greater risk of poor outcomes on important indicators of child health, social support and educational performance.

Child Poverty in Iowa

The 1990 Census provides the first county-by-county information on poverty available to the state since the 1980 Census. In addition, the 1990 Census provides information on poverty on the basis of family composition (two-parent, female headed and male headed households) and by age.

In 1990, of the 705,446 related children in Iowa, 98,463 (14.0%) lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty level ($8,343 annual income for a family of two, $9,885 for a family of three, and $12,674 for a family of four for the 1990 Census).

Within the Iowa poverty figures, however, there are significant variations. The child poverty rate ranged from a low of 6.9% in Warren County to a high of 28.2% in Appanoose County.

In addition, poverty generally is slightly higher in Iowa's rural counties and this holds for child poverty as well as adult poverty. More significant, however, is the fact that child poverty is greatest among very young children, those aged 0-4. That rate, 17.5%, is much closer to the national rate than is the rate for 5-17 year-olds.

Iowa & United States Child Poverty Rates, 1990

	Iowa	U.S.
Rate for All Children	14.0%	17.9%
Rate for 0-4 year-olds	17.5%	20.1%
Rate for 5-17 year-olds	12.6%	17.0%
Rate in Rural Counties*	15.2%	N.A.
Rate in Small Urban Counties	13.5%	N.A.
Rate in Metropolitan Counties	13.9%	N.A.

*See page 23 for breakdown of counties.

Source: United States Census

Iowa's Children in Poverty, 1990

County	Children Age 0-17	Below Poverty	Poverty Percentage
Adair	2,096	377	18.1%
Adams	1,149	264	23.0%
Allamakee	3,779	506	13.4%
Appanoose	3,338	941	28.2%
Audubon	1,652	301	18.2%
Benton	6,022	887	14.7%
Black Hawk	20,518	5,923	28.9%
Boone	6,026	667	11.1%
Bremer	5,089	604	11.9%
Buchanan	6,315	1,417	22.4%
Buena Vista	5,108	917	17.9%
Butler	4,081	497	12.2%
Calhoun	2,864	418	14.6%
Carroll	6,283	697	11.1%
Cass	3,956	594	15.0%
Cedar	4,582	585	12.8%
Cerro Gordo	11,345	1,765	15.6%
Cherokee	3,742	531	14.2%
Chickasaw	3,231	428	13.2%
Clarke	2,151	443	20.6%
Clay	4,842	561	11.6%
Clayton	5,232	872	16.7%
Clinton	13,527	1,881	13.9%
Crawford	4,525	856	18.9%
Dallas	8,779	654	7.4%
Davis	2,264	608	26.9%
Decatur	1,946	491	25.2%
Delaware	5,548	904	16.3%
Des Moines	10,048	1,789	17.8%
Dickinson	3,398	397	11.7%
Dubuque	20,145	2,895	17.4%
Emmet	2,948	447	15.2%
Fayette	5,765	1,022	17.7%
Floyd	4,233	656	15.5%
Franklin	2,857	366	12.9%
Fremont	2,100	308	14.7%
Greene	2,816	439	15.2%
Grundy	3,039	294	9.7%
Guthrie	2,896	351	12.1%
Hamilton	3,982	364	9.1%
Hancock	2,553	291	11.4%
Hardin	4,517	569	12.6%
Harrison	3,958	696	17.5%
Henry	4,707	582	12.4%
Howard	2,288	306	13.4%
Humboldt	2,730	340	12.5%
Ida	1,811	251	13.9%
Iowa	3,729	332	8.9%
Jackson	5,654	811	14.3%
Jasper	8,638	640	7.4%
Jefferson	4,976	1,000	20.1%
Johnson	18,972	1,991	10.5%
Jones	5,911	1,000	16.9%
Keokuk	2,971	504	17.0%
Keosauqua	1,994	344	17.3%
Lee	9,726	1,785	18.4%
Linn	41,217	6,795	16.5%
Louisa	3,072	397	12.9%
Lucas	2,286	365	16.0%
Lyon	3,619	615	17.0%
Madison	3,330	565	17.0%
Mahaska	5,521	826	15.0%
Marion	7,935	890	11.2%
Marshall	9,468	1,086	11.5%
Mills	3,552	399	11.2%
Mitchell	2,836	375	13.2%
Monona	2,472	528	21.4%
Monroe	2,055	439	21.4%
Montgomery	3,805	703	18.5%
Muscatine	11,004	1,565	14.2%
O'Brien	4,111	602	14.6%
Osceola	1,986	279	14.0%
Page	4,126	795	19.3%
Palo Alto	2,769	558	20.2%
Plymouth	5,328	642	12.0%
Pocahontas	2,449	344	14.0%
Polk	81,052	9,795	12.2%
Pottawattamie	22,085	3,178	14.4%
Poweshiek	3,922	671	17.1%
Ringgold	1,296	291	22.5%
Sac	2,511	396	15.8%
Scott	41,217	6,795	16.5%
Shelby	3,561	611	17.2%
Sioux	8,865	776	8.8%
Story	14,576	1,670	11.5%
Tama	4,363	498	11.4%
Taylor	1,615	276	17.1%
Union	3,267	709	21.7%
Van Buren	1,948	372	19.1%
Wapello	8,427	1,776	21.1%
Warren	7,870	1,000	12.7%
Washington	5,079	660	13.0%
Wayne	1,965	384	19.5%
Webster	10,290	1,652	16.1%
Winnebago	2,862	431	15.1%
Winneshiek	5,119	748	14.6%
Woodbury	33,576	5,938	17.7%
Worth	1,956	204	10.4%
Wright	5,648	724	12.8%
Iowa	**705,446**	**98,463**	**14.0%**
United States			17.9%

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Trends in Child Poverty

Poverty among children in Iowa, as in the United States, has risen dramatically since 1970. While economic cycles and employment rates play a role in determining poverty rates, the trend toward increased child poverty exists irrespective of economic cycles.

In fact, the increase in poverty among children largely is attributed to two factors — the dramatic increase in the number of single parent families and the lack of improvement in wage income for those employed in the workforce. Much of the rise in child poverty between 1980 and 1990 is connected to the increased proportion of children living in single parent families and the persistence of poverty among those families (see next table). Another large part, however, is connected to the decline, when adjusted for inflation, of the earnings of males in families with children.

The child poverty rate in Iowa increased 21.7% from 1980 to 1990, almost twice the rate increase of the United States (11.9%). Iowa's child poverty rate still remains substantially below that for the United States, although this gap is narrowing.

This increase in child poverty in Iowa and in the United States would have been even greater during this period if two-parent families had not spent increasing time in the work force with both parents working. By 1990, two-thirds of all families in Iowa with pre-school children (both single-parent and two-parent) had all parents working at least part-time.

Child Poverty Trends, Iowa and United States

(Percentage of Children in Poverty)

	Iowa	U.S.
1970	10.1%	15.1%
1980	11.5%	16.0%
1990	14.0%	17.9%

Source: United States Census

Trends in Child Poverty from 1980 to 1990

County	Age: 0-17 1980	Age: 0-17 1990	Percentage Rate Change
Adair	21.0%	18.1%	-13.8%
Adams	17.1%	23.0%	34.5%
Allamakee	18.6%	13.4%	-28.0%
Appanoose	22.3%	28.2%	26.5%
Audubon	19.9%	16.3%	-18.1%
Benton	14.2%	14.7%	3.5%
Black Hawk	11.0%	9.6%	-12.4%
Boone	9.5%	11.1%	16.8%
Bremer	4.0%	3.8%	-5.0%
Buchanan	14.6%	22.4%	53.4%
Buena Vista	8.8%	10.3%	17.0%
Butler	10.0%	12.2%	22.0%
Calhoun	12.3%	11.0%	-10.7%
Carroll	10.1%	11.1%	9.9%
Cass	11.7%	10.7%	-8.6%
Cedar	12.3%	12.8%	4.1%
Cerro Gordo	13.1%	10.2%	-22.0%
Cherokee	12.6%	14.2%	12.7%
Chickasaw	12.1%	11.2%	-7.4%
Clarke	22.1%	20.6%	-6.8%
Clay	13.1%	11.6%	-11.7%
Clayton	16.4%	16.7%	1.8%
Clinton	9.7%	9.2%	-5.5%
Crawford	12.0%	18.9%	57.5%
Dallas	7.1%	5.6%	-21.9%
Davis	30.3%	26.9%	-11.2%
Decatur	24.4%	20.9%	-14.8%
Delaware	17.1%	16.3%	-4.7%
Des Moines	17.0%	15.2%	-11.0%
Dickinson	9.9%	11.7%	18.2%
Dubuque	12.0%	12.4%	3.9%
Emmet	16.1%	15.2%	-5.6%
Fayette	11.6%	17.7%	52.6%
Floyd	9.1%	15.5%	70.3%
Franklin	15.2%	14.9%	-15.1%
Fremont	22.5%	14.7%	-34.7%
Greene	16.6%	17.2%	3.6%
Grundy	6.9%	9.7%	40.6%
Guthrie	17.2%	12.1%	-29.7%
Hamilton	11.3%	9.1%	-19.5%
Hancock	8.2%	10.6%	29.3%
Hardin	13.4%	12.6%	-6.0%
Harrison	18.1%	17.2%	-5.3%
Henry	9.0%	12.4%	37.8%
Howard	15.5%	14.5%	-6.5%
Humboldt	10.5%	12.5%	19.0%
Ida	9.7%	11.9%	22.7%
Iowa	9.7%	8.9%	-8.2%
Jackson	15.0%	16.0%	6.6%
Jasper	10.8%	7.4%	-31.5%
Jefferson	12.2%	15.3%	25.4%
Johnson	7.3%	10.5%	43.8%
Jones	11.3%	13.6%	20.4%
Keokuk	14.3%	17.0%	18.9%
Kossuth	9.3%	12.4%	33.6%
Lee	10.9%	18.4%	68.8%
Linn	7.7%	9.2%	19.1%
Louisa	15.0%	12.9%	-14.0%
Lucas	20.0%	16.5%	-17.5%
Lyon	14.8%	17.0%	14.9%
Madison	12.2%	16.0%	31.1%
Mahaska	14.9%	15.0%	0.7%
Marion	11.9%	11.2%	-5.7%
Marshall	9.1%	11.5%	26.4%
Mills	10.3%	11.3%	9.2%
Mitchell	13.3%	13.2%	-0.8%
Monona	16.2%	21.4%	32.0%
Monroe	18.7%	21.4%	14.4%
Montgomery	11.2%	12.0%	7.1%
Muscatine	10.3%	14.2%	37.9%
O'Brien	8.8%	14.6%	65.9%
Osceola	12.5%	14.0%	12.0%
Page	3.9%	10.3%	86.9%
Palo Alto	14.0%	20.2%	44.3%
Plymouth	14.5%	13.0%	-10.3%
Pocahontas	15.0%	14.0%	-6.7%
Polk	10.3%	12.2%	18.4%
Pottawattamie	12.4%	14.4%	16.1%
Poweshiek	13.3%	12.4%	-6.8%
Ringgold	30.6%	22.5%	-26.5%
Sac	11.4%	9.5%	-16.5%
Scott	9.2%	16.5%	79.3%
Shelby	13.3%	11.7%	-12.7%
Sioux	12.5%	8.8%	-29.6%
Story	7.5%	9.0%	20.1%
Tama	11.7%	11.4%	-2.6%
Taylor	14.0%	12.5%	-10.7%
Union	13.3%	21.7%	63.2%
Van Buren	13.2%	14.0%	6.0%
Wapello	12.3%	21.1%	71.5%
Warren	7.2%	6.7%	-7.2%
Washington	18.0%	13.0%	-27.8%
Wayne	23.3%	20.3%	-13.1%
Webster	11.5%	16.1%	40.0%
Winnebago	12.4%	13.8%	11.5%
Winneshiek	16.9%	14.6%	-13.6%
Woodbury	13.0%	12.0%	-10.5%
Worth	10.5%	10.4%	-1.0%
Wright	12.5%	12.3%	-2.0%
Iowa	**11.5%**	**14.0%**	**21.7%**
United States	16.0%	17.9%	11.9%

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Poverty Among the Very Young — Single Parent Families

Poverty is potentially damaging to all children, but the risk for damage is greatest for very young children. Unfortunately, poverty is most pronounced among very young children, from birth through age 4. In part, this is due to the fact that parents of younger children are likely to be younger themselves, with less employment experience and earning potential. In part, it is due to the fact that families with very young children have difficulty leaving the home to work, at least to work full time.

In fact, while the poverty rate for all families with young children is higher than for families with only older children, poverty is the norm for single parent families of young children that are headed by women. While Iowa's poverty rate is lower than the national average for all families with very young children, it is substantially higher in female headed households. Nearly two-thirds (64.1%) of all female headed households in Iowa with infants and toddlers live in poverty, compared with a national rate of 57.4%.

Single parenting alone places substantial stress on families with very young children, and living in poverty makes the stress that much greater. In Iowa, single parent families with very young children are much more prone to this additional stress of poverty than in the country as a whole.

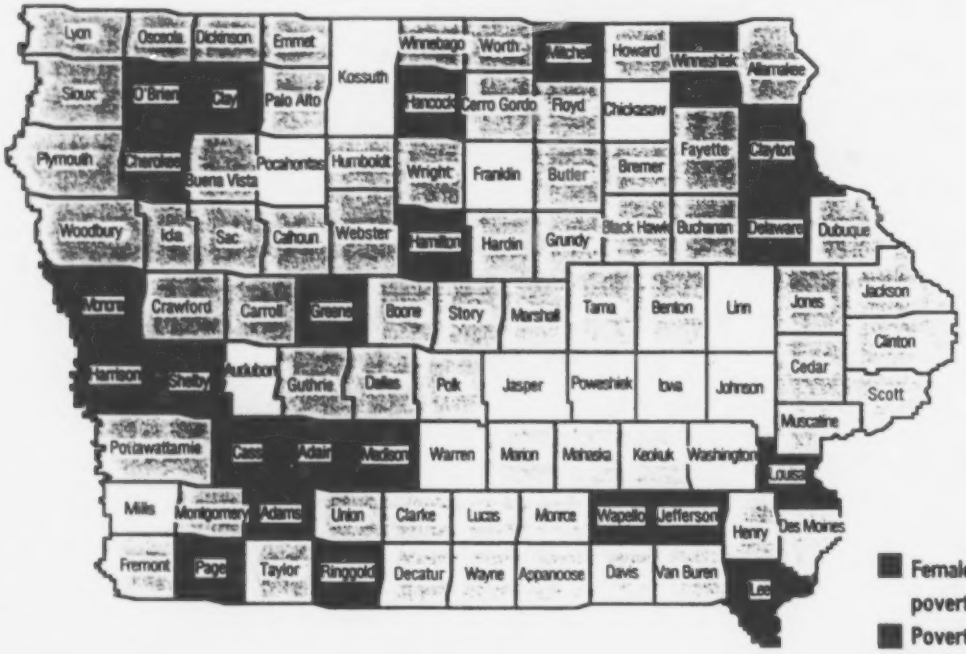
Poverty Rates for Families with Very Young Children, 1990

(Households with at least one child age 0-4)

	Iowa	U.S.
All Families	16.2%	18.3%
Two-Parent Families	8.1%	N.A.
Male Headed Household Families	26.3%	N.A.
Female Headed Household Families	64.1%	57.4%

Source: United States Census

1990 Poverty Rates for Families with Very Young Children



County	Poverty Rate: Female Headed Households	Poverty Rate: All Families
Adair	81.1%	18.9%
Adams	90.3%	32.0%
Allamakee	68.4%	12.1%
Appanoose	74.3%	30.5%
Audubon	62.2%	11.6%
Benton	59.8%	15.7%
Black Hawk	63.9%	14.1%
Boone	65.0%	12.7%
Bremer	70.5%	12.8%
Buchanan	59.1%	27.0%
Buena Vista	64.2%	16.4%
Butler	74.1%	14.5%
Calhoun	69.4%	13.9%
Carroll	55.2%	13.6%
Cass	75.3%	17.2%
Cedar	64.3%	15.9%
Cerro Gordo	67.1%	12.9%
Cherokee	83.3%	18.4%
Chickasaw	73.2%	17.2%
Clarke	66.2%	21.5%
Clay	76.1%	15.1%
Clayton	84.4%	20.0%
Clinton	66.9%	14.9%
Crawford	73.4%	25.9%
Dallas	55.2%	10.8%
Davis	50.7%	30.0%
Decatur	84.7%	30.3%
Delaware	91.8%	22.2%
Des Moines	68.1%	20.1%
Dickinson	68.2%	12.7%
Dubuque	75.2%	15.3%
Emmet	71.7%	19.2%
Fayette	78.9%	18.3%
Floyd	67.5%	18.3%
Franklin	52.0%	15.2%
Fremont	70.8%	14.1%
Greene	76.2%	14.8%
Grundy	55.6%	10.7%
Guthrie	72.0%	11.5%
Hamilton	94.4%	11.0%
Hancock	63.2%	11.7%
Hardin	65.7%	17.4%
Harrison	78.7%	18.8%
Henry	69.3%	17.6%
Howard	66.0%	15.4%
Humboldt	53.1%	15.0%
Ida	77.5%	11.0%
Iowa	48.9%	8.6%
Jackson	70.1%	14.4%
Jasper	44.5%	11.0%
Jefferson	71.4%	15.7%
Johnson	43.1%	12.6%
Jones	75.5%	14.4%
Keokuk	63.5%	16.3%
Kossuth	64.1%	11.8%
Lee	82.1%	21.5%
Linn	58.4%	11.4%
Louisa	77.2%	18.7%
Lucas	70.6%	17.3%
Lyon	69.0%	21.1%
Madison	63.5%	17.1%
Mahaska	72.5%	19.2%
Marion	65.5%	15.0%
Marshall	65.1%	15.3%
Mills	67.8%	14.5%
Mitchell	79.1%	15.2%
Monona	67.5%	22.4%
Monroe	70.7%	20.3%
Montgomery	70.0%	14.2%
Muscatine	72.5%	18.4%
O'Brien	72.6%	13.0%
Osceola	50.0%	11.8%
Page	76.8%	22.2%
Palo Alto	71.4%	25.7%
Plymouth	70.3%	9.2%
Pocahontas	41.9%	14.0%
Polk	53.8%	13.8%
Pottawattamie	70.3%	19.4%
Poweshiek	69.5%	15.5%
Ringgold	100.0%	25.8%
Sac	69.1%	15.6%
Scott	73.0%	20.9%
Shelby	60.4%	10.8%
Sioux	65.5%	10.5%
Story	53.0%	9.7%
Tama	51.9%	14.6%
Taylor	69.2%	20.0%
Union	67.8%	22.8%
Van Buren	74.2%	19.2%
Wapello	76.0%	21.4%
Warren	59.2%	9.7%
Washington	18.4%	11.0%
Wayne	69.2%	20.0%
Webster	68.6%	15.6%
Winnebago	74.2%	13.1%
Winneshiek	79.1%	12.1%
Woodbury	70.3%	9.7%
Worth	60.0%	7.0%
Wright	64.5%	12.0%
Iowa	**64.1%**	**16.2%**
United States	57.4%	18.3%

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Poverty By Age Groupings

One of the challenges to policy makers is to change the perception among the public that children are not one of the prime victims of poverty. While children are much more likely to live in poverty than the population as a whole, that is not the current perception of the public.

In a 1992 public opinion poll, the Iowa Kids Count Project asked registered voters in Iowa what age group in society they thought was most likely to be poor. Only one in five respondents correctly identified children as being most susceptible to poverty in Iowa. Many more respondents (30%) selected senior citizens, whose poverty rate has declined dramatically over the last two decades in Iowa, in large part due to government attention and improvements in social security and other retirement systems.

Although poverty is higher in rural counties than in more urban ones and a larger proportion of senior citizens live in rural counties than in urban ones, the poverty rate among children is higher than it is for senior citizens in most rural, as well as urban, counties. The poverty rate among senior citizens in Iowa is slightly below that for the state as a whole but remains above that for working age adults.

Only in Johnson and Story counties is the child poverty rate below the overall poverty rate. For the state as a whole, the child poverty rate is 21.7% above the overall poverty rate and 35.9% above that among the state's 18-64 population.

Poverty Rates by Age Group, Iowa & United States, 1990

	All Persons	Children (0-17)	Working Age Adults (18-64)	Seniors (65+)
Iowa	11.5%	14.0%	10.3%	11.2%
United States	13.1%	17.9%	11.0%	12.8%
Iowa Rural Counties*	12.2%	15.2%	10.2%	13.2%
Iowa Small Urban Counties	11.3%	13.5%	10.1%	11.5%
Iowa Metropolitan Counties	11.3%	13.9%	10.5%	9.2%

*See page 23 for breakdown of counties.

Source: United States Census

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1990 Child Poverty Rates Compared with Overall Poverty Rates

County	Rate All Persons	Rate Age 0-17	Rate Age 18-64	Rate Age 65+
Adair	13.4%	18.1%	10.6%	14.5%
Adams	16.8%	23.0%	14.7%	13.6%
Allamakee	13.2%	13.6%	11.1%	19.1%
Appanoose	20.4%	28.2%	18.7%	14.8%
Audubon	12.1%	16.3%	9.3%	13.9%
Benton	11.4%	14.7%	10.5%	8.9%
Black Hawk	15.3%	19.4%	14.0%	9.1%
Boone	8.8%	11.1%	7.6%	9.3%
Bremer	9.2%	10.6%	7.9%	10.6%
Buchanan	16.7%	22.4%	13.9%	14.3%
Buena Vista	8.7%	10.3%	7.5%	9.5%
Butler	10.7%	12.2%	7.9%	16.2%
Calhoun	11.9%	14.6%	9.8%	13.5%
Carroll	10.6%	11.1%	9.1%	14.0%
Cass	11.5%	15.7%	9.6%	11.0%
Cedar	10.2%	12.8%	8.0%	13.2%
Cerro Gordo	8.9%	10.2%	7.2%	8.5%
Cherokee	11.2%	14.2%	9.8%	10.7%
Chickasaw	10.7%	11.2%	9.1%	14.6%
Clarke	13.7%	20.6%	10.8%	12.6%
Clay	10.0%	11.6%	8.6%	10.8%
Clayton	14.4%	16.7%	12.1%	17.6%
Clinton	10.6%	13.7%	9.3%	10.9%
Crawford	15.9%	18.9%	12.9%	18.5%
Dallas	7.6%	8.0%	6.6%	10.6%
Davis	17.8%	26.9%	13.3%	16.2%
Decatur	21.0%	25.6%	15.5%	21.4%
Delaware	12.8%	16.3%	10.3%	14.6%
Des Moines	11.5%	17.2%	8.9%	10.0%
Dickinson	9.2%	11.7%	7.4%	9.8%
Dubuque	10.3%	12.4%	8.6%	12.2%
Emmet	13.0%	15.2%	12.2%	11.2%
Fayette	14.2%	17.7%	11.3%	17.1%
Floyd	13.3%	15.5%	11.7%	13.5%

County	Rate All Persons	Rate Age 0-17	Rate Age 18-64	Rate Age 65+
Franklin	11.3%	12.9%	9.1%	15.1%
Fremont	12.2%	14.7%	10.9%	11.6%
Greene	12.2%	17.7%	9.3%	12.4%
Grundy	8.3%	9.7%	6.6%	10.8%
Guthrie	11.2%	12.1%	10.3%	12.5%
Hamilton	8.2%	9.1%	7.0%	10.9%
Hancock	8.9%	10.6%	7.6%	9.2%
Hardin	10.8%	12.6%	9.1%	13.0%
Harrison	15.0%	17.5%	11.1%	16.0%
Henry	10.1%	12.4%	9.0%	9.6%
Howard	13.9%	16.9%	10.6%	20.9%
Humboldt	8.8%	12.5%	7.7%	7.0%
Ida	11.0%	11.9%	10.2%	12.8%
Iowa	8.2%	8.9%	6.5%	12.0%
Jackson	14.3%	16.1%	12.5%	17.4%
Jasper	7.0%	7.4%	5.7%	9.7%
Jefferson	13.5%	15.3%	13.1%	14.1%
Johnson	17.1%	10.5%	20.0%	7.9%
Jones	11.3%	13.4%	9.4%	14.7%
Keokuk	13.1%	17.0%	10.9%	13.5%
Kossuth	11.0%	12.5%	10.0%	11.4%
Lee	12.9%	18.4%	10.1%	13.2%
Linn	8.0%	10.2%	7.9%	7.9%
Louisa	11.7%	12.9%	11.2%	10.8%
Lucas	15.2%	16.5%	11.1%	14.2%
Lyon	13.3%	17.0%	10.9%	13.8%
Madison	11.1%	16.6%	8.7%	9.9%
Mahaska	13.0%	15.0%	12.1%	12.6%
Marion	10.0%	11.7%	8.1%	13.5%
Marshall	8.7%	11.5%	7.0%	10.2%
Mills	10.2%	11.3%	9.4%	10.6%
Mitchell	10.3%	13.2%	8.5%	11.1%
Monona	14.8%	21.4%	11.3%	15.2%
Monroe	15.6%	21.4%	13.8%	12.7%

County	Rate All Persons	Rate Age 0-17	Rate Age 18-64	Rate Age 65+
Montgomery	10.1%	12.0%	8.6%	11.4%
Muscatine	10.1%	14.2%	8.2%	8.9%
O'Brien	12.1%	14.6%	10.8%	11.4%
Osceola	9.8%	14.0%	7.8%	9.1%
Page	13.8%	18.5%	11.1%	14.6%
Palo Alto	15.3%	20.2%	14.9%	9.4%
Plymouth	9.0%	9.6%	7.9%	11.6%
Pocahontas	10.4%	14.0%	8.8%	9.7%
Polk	9.2%	12.2%	8.0%	8.1%
Pottawattamie	10.5%	14.4%	8.6%	10.2%
Poweshiek	10.4%	12.4%	8.6%	13.1%
Ringgold	17.2%	22.5%	14.0%	18.7%
Sac	11.8%	15.3%	9.8%	12.1%
Scott	12.1%	16.5%	10.3%	9.5%
Shelby	9.6%	11.1%	8.3%	9.8%
Sioux	8.1%	8.8%	7.1%	9.7%
Story	16.5%	10.2%	20.0%	7.1%
Tama	10.6%	11.4%	9.6%	11.8%
Taylor	18.3%	23.2%	15.8%	18.9%
Union	15.5%	21.7%	13.0%	13.9%
Van Buren	16.8%	24.2%	14.1%	14.2%
Wapello	15.3%	21.1%	14.2%	10.4%
Warren	6.3%	6.9%	5.3%	9.9%
Washington	9.5%	13.0%	7.5%	9.9%
Wayne	19.1%	25.3%	16.8%	16.7%
Webster	11.8%	16.1%	10.2%	9.6%
Winnebago	11.7%	15.2%	11.1%	10.2%
Winneshiek	13.2%	14.6%	11.3%	17.5%
Woodbury	13.4%	17.6%	11.5%	11.4%
Worth	9.9%	10.4%	9.3%	10.8%
Wright	9.7%	12.3%	8.2%	10.3%
Iowa	**11.5%**	**14.0%**	**10.3%**	**11.2%**
United States	13.1%	17.9%	11.0%	12.8%

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The Impact of Poverty on Well-Being

Nationally, the association between poverty and poor outcomes for children is strong. Research has shown that children in poverty are at much greater risk than children not in poverty on all eight measures of child well-being used by Iowa Kids Count — infant mortality, low birthweight, child mortality, teen violent death, adolescent parenting, births to unmarried teens as a proportion of all births, foster care placement and high school graduation.

In addition, national research also shows child poverty to be strongly associated with such other health, social and educational outcomes as anemia, hyperactivity, neurological disorders, preventable birth defects, founded cases of abuse and neglect, grade retention, school labelling as behavioral disordered or seriously emotionally disturbed, delinquency, criminal arrests, and violent behavior.

Moreover, when children grow up in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, all children in those neighborhoods are at greater risk of these poor outcomes. Poor outcomes for children are most pronounced in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty and limited opportunity. The immediate environment for children in these neighborhoods places them at risk, whether or not their own parents are poor. In such neighborhoods, strategies to improve child well-being require neighborhood-wide, as well as family-based, responses.

Children in poverty are at much greater risk than children not in poverty on all eight measures of child well-being used by Iowa Kids Count.

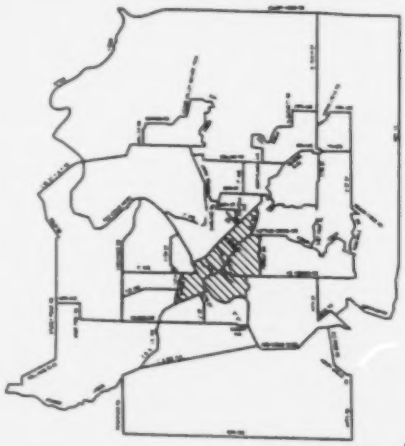
Three separate analyses conducted by the Iowa Kids Count Initiative illustrate the impact of concentrated neighborhood poverty upon child well-being. The three indicators of child well-being were selected because they represent important health, education and social indicators for well-being. The results of these analyses, while limited to specific sites and therefore illustrative rather than comprehensive, are striking. Children in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty are at four to five times the risk of children in other neighborhoods with regard to infant mortality, foster placement and poor school performance.

Infant Mortality

Between 1987 and 1990, the overall infant mortality rate for the city of Des Moines, at 13.1 per 1,000 live births, masked huge differences within neighborhoods. The two neighborhoods with the highest poverty rates in Des Moines, the near west and near east sides, had infant mortality rates similar to those of third world countries (36.7 and 33.1, respectively) while the remainder of Des Moines's infant mortality rate approximated the state average (8.5). These high rates correspond to the poverty rates for young children in these neighborhoods (58.7% and 30.4%, respectively), which are twice to four times as high as for the remainder of the city (15.8%).

As a result of this analysis, special efforts have been undertaken to provide prenatal care services and supports to these two highest risk neighborhoods.

Variations in Foster Care Placement Rates in Linn County, 1991 DHS Cases



	Inner City	Remainder of Cedar Rapids	Non Inner City Linn County
FOSTER CARE FIGURES			
Foster Care Placement Rate/1,000 Children	13.6	3.6	2.9
CHILD POVERTY RATES			
Children Age 0-17	29.9%	8.4%	7.8%

Foster Placement

In 1991, Linn County's foster care placement rate was 6.3 per 1,000 children, slightly above the statewide average of 5.2 per 1,000 children. In examining the foster care cases under the supervision of the Iowa Department of Human Services (approximately three-quarters of all children in foster care, the remainder are under the supervision of the Court), the poverty-stricken neighborhood in downtown Cedar Rapids accounted for 37.0 % of all placements, although representing only 11.1% of the child population. The placement rate of 13.6 per 1,000 children was four times the placement rate for the remainder of Linn County, as was the child poverty rate.

School Performance

In 1991, fourteen elementary schools in Iowa's eight largest cities had free and reduced price lunch participation rates of 75 % or more, making these elementary schools the poorest schools in the state. When these schools' fourth grade test scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills were compared with schools nationally, their median ranking was in the 30th percentile, while the median score for metropolitan elementary schools as a whole was in the 64th percentile.

If school performance in fourth grade can be equated with likelihood of graduation from high school, this would mean that students in the neighborhoods served by these poorest elementary schools are five times as likely to drop out of school as students from other metropolitan schools.

Conclusion

As with national studies, these Iowa analyses show a strong connection between poverty and resultant poor child outcomes on health, social and educational dimensions. The county-by-county census data on child poverty presented earlier are important in showing the growing challenge that poverty presents to improving child well-being in Iowa.

In addition, however, these analyses also help define specific neighborhoods where children suffer the most risk of failing to thrive and develop. If Iowa policy is to reduce the harm that is done to children through failing to guarantee their health, education and social welfare, that policy must direct a significant portion of its attention to those neighborhoods where poverty is most concentrated.

Part Two:
Decade-Long Trends in Child Well-Being

In its 1991 publication, *World-Class Futures*, the Iowa Kids Count Initiative provided county-by-county data on the well-being of Iowa children on eight important, and available, measures of well-being. Updated county-by-county figures are provided in this 1992 Kids Count report, as well.

In addition, however, this report provides annual data over the last ten years on these indicators on a statewide basis. Because many of these data fluctuate when examined on a county-by-county basis, annual comparisons are only meaningful on many of these measures on a statewide basis.

The results of this decade-long examination are sobering.

The well-being of Iowa's children has shown steady, decade-long improvement in only one of the eight Iowa Kids Count indicators of child well-being — infant mortality. On four key measures — low birthweight, births to 16- and 17-year-olds, teen unmarried births, and foster care — there has been a steady erosion in well-being. Performance on the remaining three measures — child deaths, teen violent deaths and high school graduation — has changed little over the period.

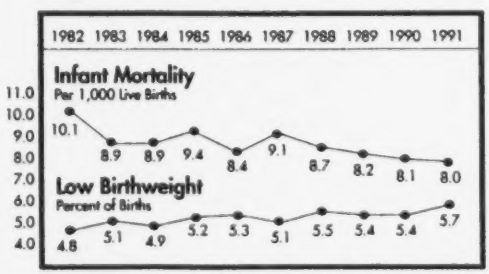
Infant Mortality and Low Birthweight

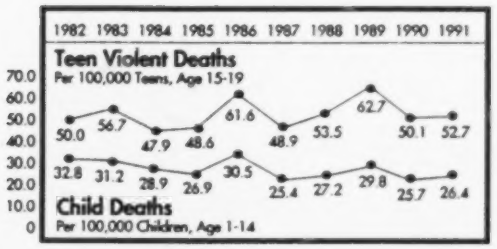
Infant mortality is the one measure of child well-being that has improved steadily over the last ten years in Iowa as well as in the country as a whole. Since 1982, infant mortality in Iowa has declined by 20.8%, to 8.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Over the last decade, however, most of the improvements in infant mortality in the country have been attributed to improvements in medical technology in keeping premature, low birthweight infants alive, rather than from women bearing healthier infants.

Although infant mortality rates have improved, the exact opposite has occurred in Iowa with respect to low birthweight. Over the last decade, the number of infants born at low birthweight has increased by 18.8%. Low birthweight, which is very closely related to prematurity, is preventable in most cases through comprehensive prenatal care.

The costs associated with low birthweight, however, are significant. In 1990, the average medical costs for the birth of a low birthweight baby were $21,000, compared to an average cost of $2,800 for a normal birthweight baby. In addition to the immediate medical costs associated with intensive neonatal services, however, low birthweight babies are three times more likely than normal birthweight babies to experience neurological problems such as cerebral palsy and seizure disorders and to require special education services or experience grade repetition. They are twice as likely to experience hyperactivity and much more likely to experience other preventable handicapping conditions.

Because of the impact upon medical and health care costs and long-term child health and well-being, the increase in the rate of low birthweight babies in Iowa is of particular concern.





Child and Teen Violent Deaths

Once past the perinatal period (the first year of age), death is a very rare event among children. Automobile accidents represent the leading cause of both deaths among children and violent deaths among teens. Since all accidents are avoidable, even though Iowa has reached the national health goal of no more than 28 child deaths per 100,000 children, there still is room for improvement on both these measures of child well-being.

While substantial changes have occurred in the last decade to reduce automobile fatalities (raising the drinking age, lowering the speed limit, and requiring child safety restraints and seat belts), child death rates have not experienced a significant decline since the mid-1980s.

Teen violent death (motor vehicle deaths, homicides and suicides) rates, while fluctuating year-to-year, are as high today as they were in 1982. The teen motor vehicle death rate, which constituted 66.7% of all violent deaths in 1991, showed a small decline over the decade. While the suicide rate remained constant over this period (11.5 deaths per 100,000 teens for both 1982 and 1991), however, the homicide rate increased significantly (2.3 per 100,000 teens in 1982 and 6.0 in 1991).

Moreover, improved emergency medical care and treatment have resulted in a reduction in fatalities among those receiving life-threatening injuries, which suggests that serious injury rates for children and youth likely have increased over this time. Prevention efforts are needed if reductions in the death — and serious injury — rates for children and youth are to be achieved.

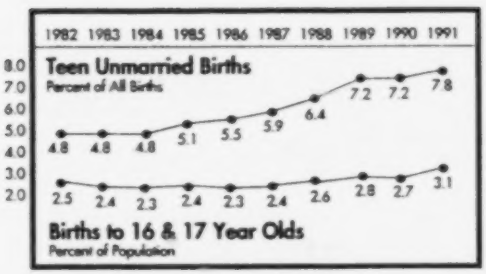
Adolescent Parenting

Accounting for a small portion of the increase in low birthweight over the last decade has been the increase in the number and proportion of births to adolescents in Iowa. Adolescent mothers have a generally higher rate of giving birth to low birthweight babies than women in their twenties.

On two measures, adolescent parenting has increased substantially over the last decade in Iowa.

First, the proportion of all 16- and 17-year-old women in Iowa giving birth has increased from 2.5% to 3.1% of all young women in any given year, a 24.0% increase. The likelihood that any adolescent would have a child prior to reaching age eighteen is more than double this percentage, as she might bear a child at age 17, age 16, age 15, or younger.

This increase in the birth rate among 16- and 17-year-olds stands in sharp distinction to a declining birth rate for women in their twenties. Further, in addition to being more likely to bear low birthweight and premature infants with attendant health problems, 16- and 17-year-old mothers also are more likely to live in poverty, to drop out of school, and to fail to adequately care for their chil-



dren (as evidenced by higher rates of child abuse and neglect).

While the vast majority of births to women under 18 occur to 16- and 17-year-olds (83.4% of all under-18 births in 1991), the birth rate among women 15 and younger has been growing at an even higher rate than for those 16 and 17. Over the last decade, the birth rate among women aged 12 to 15 increased from 0.207% to 0.286%, an increase of 38.1%.

Second, the proportion of all births in Iowa to unmarried teens (women under the age of 20) has increased from 4.8% to 7.8% of all Iowa births, a 62.5% increase. While below the national average of 8.6%, Iowa's rate of growth is so much above the national growth average of 14.7% that, should current trends continue, Iowa will soon be at the national average. As was described earlier in the section of this report on poverty, most of these unmarried teens will live in poverty. They will be much more likely to enter the welfare system than women who wait until they reach adulthood to have their first children.

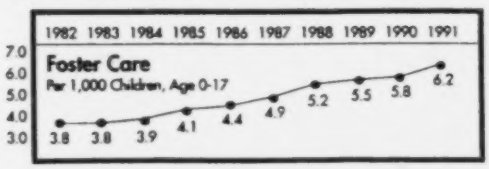
As with low birthweight, these trends regarding adolescent parenting increase the proportion of very young children at-risk as well as producing strains upon public expenditures.

Foster Care

One of the gravest actions a democratic society that highly values both individual and family rights can take is to remove a child from his or her parents. Removal of a child into a foster family home or residential setting is only warranted in Iowa to protect the safety of the child from abuse and neglect or to protect society from the child's own dangerous behaviors.

Not only is foster care costly to the state, it also produces damage to the child so removed, even when that must occur for the child's long-term safety. Children who have been removed into foster care remain at significantly higher risk for poor outcomes on a variety of other measures of child and adult well-being. For instance, foster children are at least ten times as likely as other children to grow into adults who become homeless, who are incarcerated in jails and prisons for criminal activities, and who are part of the mental health institutional population. While it is not foster care itself that produces these adult problems, the health of society is dependent upon addressing childhood concerns before placement of children into foster care becomes the only available option.

Since 1982, the proportion of Iowa children removed from their homes and living in foster care settings has increased steadily and dramatically, by 63.2%. In 1991, over 6 in every 1,000 Iowa children lived in foster care. While Iowa continues to be below the national average in the proportion of children placed into foster care, Iowa's rate of placement is rapidly approaching the national average.

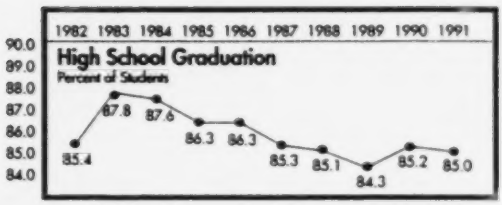


High School Graduation

Over the last two decades, the structure of the workforce in Iowa and the United States has undergone dramatic change, with new workers expected to exhibit much higher skills in order to command decent, family-sustaining wages. If young adults are to have any realistic chance of finding employment that provides career opportunities and more than a minimum wage salary, a high school education represents a bare minimum level of educational attainment.

Despite the change in workforce demands, however, the graduation rate from Iowa high schools has remained virtually constant over the last decade, with 15% of all Iowa youth dropping out of high school at some point before graduation. A portion of these later return to complete their high school degrees or to attain G.E.D.s and even to complete community college degrees, but many are left in positions with little chance of finding family-sustaining employment.

While Iowa ranks well above the national average in terms of literacy and high school graduation, the 1990 Census shows Iowa fares less well with respect to higher education. Among states, Iowa's 25-and-older population ranks 13th nationally in the proportion of high school graduates, but only 30th in post-secondary associate degrees, 40th in college graduates and 45th in post-graduate degrees. While some of this is the result of the out-migration of Iowa's more highly educated adults, the figures themselves present significant challenges to Iowa's economic growth and to the capacity of Iowa families to provide for their children.



Conclusion

These decade-long trends present major challenges to the state. Iowa's economic vitality into the 21st century requires a healthy and well-educated new workforce, a workforce that increasingly will come from those who are children today.

Among the most troubling trends are those related to the youngest of Iowa's children. The increase in low birthweight rate means an increase in preventable, life-long handicapping conditions and greater numbers of children at high risk of a variety of poor social and educational outcomes. The rise in adolescent parenting means that increasing numbers of infants and toddlers will be raised in families least equipped to address their needs and concerns.

The connection between Iowa's long-term economic vitality and the health and well-being of its future workforce needs to be clearly made. The cost of failing to act upon these important trends and their adverse impact on Iowa children are pronounced.

The goal of the Iowa Kids Count Project is to identify these trends so that results-oriented public policies can be developed to effectively address them. The figures presented here clearly identify these important trends and place a challenge upon policy makers to develop policies to effectively address them.

Infant Mortality

Low

While the infant mortality rate in Iowa has steadily improved over the last two decades, the state has not yet achieved the Healthy People 2000 goal of no more than seven deaths per 1,000 live births. Moreover, Iowa's infant mortality rate among African-Americans remains substantially above that for whites. In 1991, for instance, the African-American infant mortality rate was 11.7 compared to a white infant mortality rate of 8.0.

County	Live Births	Infant Deaths	Inf. Mort. Rate
Adair	87	1	11.5
Adams	64	0	0.0
Allamakee	174	1	5.7
Appanoose	170	3	17.6
Audubon	76	2	26.3
Benton	336	1	3.0
Black Hawk	1,732	13	7.5
Boone	312	2	6.4
Bremer	237	0	0.0
Buchanan	302	0	0.0
Buena Vista	265	0	0.0
Butler	162	1	6.2
Calhoun	111	1	9.0
Carroll	278	0	0.0
Cass	205	1	4.9
Cedar	217	3	13.8
Cerro Gordo	621	2	3.2
Cherokee	153	0	0.0
Chickasaw	166	1	6.0
Clarke	105	1	9.5
Clay	258	2	7.8
Clayton	254	3	11.8
Clinton	685	3	4.4
Crawford	205	0	0.0
Dallas	426	4	9.4
Davis	127	1	7.9
Decatur	94	0	0.0
Delaware	271	1	3.7
Des Moines	580	2	3.4
Dickinson	163	0	0.0
Dubuque	1,231	8	6.5
Emmet	155	0	0.0
Fayette	295	3	10.2
Floyd	221	0	0.0
Franklin	130	2	15.4
Fremont	107	0	0.0
Greene	124	1	8.1
Grundy	136	1	7.4
Guthrie	138	2	14.5
Hamilton	220	1	4.5
Hancock	157	0	0.0
Hardin	209	2	9.6
Harrison	201	1	5.0
Henry	237	2	8.4
Howard	114	0	0.0
Humboldt	104	1	9.6
Ida	100	1	10.0
Iowa	208	1	4.8
Jackson	286	2	7.0
Jasper	471	4	8.5
Jefferson	186	2	10.8
Johnson	1,358	12	8.8
Jones	255	0	0.0
Keokuk	176	2	11.4
Kossuth	226	1	4.4
Lee	494	8	16.2
Linn	2,632	14	5.3
Louisa	148	1	6.8
Lucas	111	1	9.0
Lyon	156	1	6.4
Madison	158	2	12.7
Mahaska	300	3	10.0
Marion	364	4	11.0
Marshall	458	5	10.9
Mills	170	0	0.0
Mitchell	148	1	6.8
Monona	133	1	7.5
Monroe	111	0	0.0
Montgomery	138	3	21.7
Muscatine	676	11	16.3
O'Brien	176	3	17.0
Osceola	107	0	0.0
Page	179	1	5.6
Palo Alto	111	1	9.0
Pocahontas	104	0	0.0
Polk	5,494	66	12.0
Pottawattamie	1,299	14	10.8
Poweshiek	257	0	0.0
Ringgold	53	2	37.7
Sac	125	0	0.0
Scott	2,409	14	5.8
Shelby	156	2	12.8
Sioux	439	5	11.4
Story	900	11	12.2
Tama	213	0	0.0
Taylor	63	1	15.9
Union	143	2	14.0
Van Buren	98	2	20.4
Wapello	481	3	6.2
Warren	550	6	10.9
Washington	277	1	3.6
Wayne	74	1	13.5
Webster	563	5	8.9
Winnebago	138	1	7.2
Winneshiek	252	0	0.0
Woodbury	1,623	14	8.6
Worth	99	0	0.0
Wright	188	1	5.3
Iowa (1991)	**38,925**	**312**	**8.0**
United States (1989)			9.8

While Iowa ranks seventh nationally among the states in low birthweight, the increase in the proportion of low birthweight babies over the last decade is disturbing and hinders Iowa in achieving the Healthy People 2000

County	Live Births	Low Birthwt.	% Low Birthwt.
Adair	87	3	3.4%
Adams	64	3	4.7%
Allamakee	174	4	2.3%
Appanoose	170	8	4.7%
Audubon	76	3	3.9%
Benton	336	19	5.7%
Black Hawk	1,732	90	5.2%
Boone	312	14	4.5%
Bremer	237	11	4.6%
Buchanan	302	22	7.3%
Buena Vista	265	16	6.0%
Butler	162	5	3.1%
Calhoun	111	12	10.8%
Carroll	278	13	4.7%
Cass	205	11	5.4%
Cedar	217	13	6.0%
Cerro Gordo	621	42	6.8%
Cherokee	153	10	6.5%
Chickasaw	166	6	3.6%
Clarke	105	8	7.6%
Clay	258	12	4.7%
Clayton	254	10	3.9%
Clinton	685	47	6.9%
Crawford	205	12	5.9%
Dallas	426	24	5.6%
Davis	127	5	3.9%
Decatur	94	2	2.1%
Delaware	271	10	3.7%
Des Moines	580	29	5.0%
Dickinson	163	7	4.3%
Dubuque	1,231	48	3.9%
Emmet	155	7	4.5%
Fayette	295	16	5.4%
Floyd	221	12	5.4%
Franklin	130	8	6.2%
Fremont	107	6	5.6%
Greene	124	11	8.9%
Grundy	136	8	5.9%
Guthrie	138	9	6.5%
Hamilton	220	15	6.8%
Hancock	157	8	5.1%
Hardin	209	18	8.6%
Harrison	201	8	4.0%
Henry	237	20	8.4%
Howard	114	5	4.4%
Humboldt	104	4	3.8%
Ida	100	1	1.0%
Iowa	208	7	3.4%
Jackson	286	14	4.9%
Jasper	471	35	7.4%
Jefferson	186	11	5.9%

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Birthweight

goal of no more than five percent low birthweight infants by the year 2000. At its present rate of change, Iowa's low birthweight percentage in the year 2000 will be 6.8% of all births.

County	Live Births	Low Birthwt.	% Low Birthwt.
Johnson	1,358	65	4.8%
Jones	255	9	3.5%
Keokuk	176	10	5.7%
Kossuth	226	14	6.2%
Lee	494	36	7.3%
Linn	2,632	155	5.9%
Louisa	148	5	3.4%
Lucas	111	6	5.4%
Lyon	156	6	3.8%
Madison	198	10	6.3%
Mahaska	300	16	5.3%
Marion	364	20	5.5%
Marshall	458	26	5.7%
Mills	170	10	5.9%
Mitchell	148	6	4.1%
Monona	133	4	3.0%
Monroe	111	9	8.1%
Montgomery	138	11	8.0%
Muscatine	676	35	5.2%
O'Brien	176	6	3.4%
Osceola	107	3	2.8%
Page	179	7	3.9%
Palo Alto	111	5	4.5%
Plymouth	296	12	4.1%
Pocahontas	104	3	2.9%
Polk	5,494	389	7.1%
Pottawattamie	1,299	81	6.2%
Poweshiek	237	14	5.9%
Ringgold	53	6	11.3%
Sac	125	5	4.0%
Scott	2,409	141	5.9%
Shelby	156	8	5.1%
Sioux	439	23	5.2%
Story	909	53	5.9%
Tama	213	8	3.8%
Taylor	63	2	3.2%
Union	143	9	6.3%
Van Buren	98	6	6.1%
Wapello	481	23	4.8%
Warren	550	33	6.0%
Washington	277	12	4.3%
Wayne	78	5	6.8%
Webster	563	33	5.9%
Winnebago	138	5	3.6%
Winneshiek	252	15	6.0%
Woodbury	1,625	96	5.9%
Worth	99	2	2.0%
Wright	180	14	7.8%
Iowa (1991)	**38,925**	**2,214**	**5.7%**
United States (1989)			7.0%

Child Deaths

Even though Iowa has reached the Healthy People 2000 goal of no more than 28 child deaths per 100,000 children, the majority of child deaths in Iowa are caused by accidents and therefore are preventable. Iowa's rate of 26.4 deaths per 100,000 children is below the national average of 32.4 deaths and places Iowa 17th among states in the 1992 National Kids Count report.

County	Child Population	Child Deaths	Death Rate
Adair	1,684	1	59.4
Adams	925	0	0.0
Allamakee	3,010	0	0.0
Appanoose	2,729	0	0.0
Audubon	1,480	0	0.0
Benton	4,990	1	20.0
Black Hawk	25,105	4	15.9
Boone	4,973	1	20.1
Bremer	4,531	1	22.1
Buchanan	5,127	2	39.0
Buena Vista	4,166	1	24.0
Butler	3,277	1	30.5
Calhoun	2,320	0	0.0
Carroll	5,187	1	19.3
Cass	3,080	0	0.0
Cedar	3,712	1	26.9
Cerro Gordo	9,239	3	32.5
Cherokee	3,007	0	0.0
Chickasaw	2,942	4	136.0
Clarke	1,719	2	116.3
Clay	3,894	1	25.7
Clayton	4,167	1	24.0
Clinton	10,859	1	9.2
Crawford	3,585	5	0.0
Dallas	6,629	4	60.3
Davis	1,778	0	0.0
Decatur	1,517	1	65.9
Delaware	3,475	2	44.7
Des Moines	8,769	4	45.6
Dickinson	2,797	0	0.0
Dubuque	18,557	6	32.3
Emmet	2,596	1	41.7
Fayette	4,555	2	43.9
Floyd	3,508	3	85.6
Franklin	2,344	0	0.0
Fremont	1,705	1	58.7
Greene	2,003	0	0.0
Grundy	2,441	0	0.0
Guthrie	2,162	1	46.3
Hamilton	3,219	0	0.0
Hancock	2,839	0	0.0
Hardin	3,652	3	82.1
Harrison	3,159	2	63.3
Henry	3,872	1	25.8
Howard	2,083	0	0.0
Humboldt	2,181	0	0.0
Ida	1,849	0	0.0
Iowa	3,588	0	0.0
Jackson	4,400	2	45.5
Jasper	6,987	0	0.0
Jefferson	3,215	0	0.0
Johnson	15,665	6	38.5
Jones	3,950	0	0.0
Keokuk	2,428	0	0.0
Kossuth	4,141	1	24.1
Lee	7,973	2	25.1
Linn	33,518	11	32.8
Louisa	2,491	1	40.1
Lucas	1,778	0	0.0
Lyon	2,897	2	69.0
Madison	2,689	0	0.0
Mahaska	4,477	1	22.3
Marion	6,107	0	0.0
Marshall	7,556	4	52.9
Mills	2,834	1	35.3
Mitchell	2,242	0	0.0
Monona	1,943	2	102.9
Monroe	1,635	0	0.0
Montgomery	2,360	3	127.1
Muscatine	8,806	4	45.4
O'Brien	3,305	2	60.5
Osceola	1,563	0	0.0
Page	3,528	0	0.0
Palo Alto	2,259	0	0.0
Plymouth	5,445	1	18.4
Pocahontas	1,983	0	0.0
Polk	36,813	10	27.5
Pottawattamie	17,926	3	16.7
Poweshiek	3,853	0	0.0
Ringgold	1,039	1	96.2
Sac	2,636	3	113.8
Scott	33,779	7	20.7
Shelby	2,861	0	0.0
Sioux	7,251	1	13.8
Story	11,787	1	8.5
Tama	3,589	0	0.0
Taylor	1,628	0	0.0
Union	2,570	0	0.0
Van Buren	1,620	0	0.0
Wapello	6,728	1	14.9
Warren	7,961	1	12.4
Washington	4,216	0	0.0
Wayne	1,371	0	0.0
Webster	8,382	3	35.8
Winnebago	2,457	2	81.5
Winneshiek	4,127	1	24.2
Woodbury	31,172	6	77.1
Worth	1,571	1	63.7
Wright	3,944	2	72.9
Iowa (1991)	**572,458**	**151**	**26.4**
United States (1989)			32.4

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Teen Violent Deaths

The preponderence of teen violent deaths presented here involve motor vehicle accidents, representing 66.7% of all violent deaths in 1991. The percentage of teen violent deaths by motor vehicle accidents and suicide has shown a slight decrease the last few years; however, the percentage of teen violent deaths by homicide has shown a marked increase, doubling in just two years.

County	Teen Population	Violent Deaths	Death Rate
Adair	486	1	205.8
Adams	311	0	0.0
Allamakee	916	1	109.2
Appanoose	950	0	0.0
Audubon	429	0	0.0
Benton	1,441	3	208.2
Black Hawk	9,970	2	20.1
Boone	1,511	0	0.0
Bremer	1,903	1	52.5
Buchanan	1,469	0	0.0
Buena Vista	1,479	0	0.0
Butler	1,098	0	0.0
Calhoun	696	1	152.4
Carroll	1,387	3	216.3
Cass	932	0	0.0
Cedar	1,093	2	183.0
Cerro Gordo	3,221	0	0.0
Cherokee	950	1	105.5
Chickasaw	944	0	0.0
Clarke	535	0	0.0
Clay	1,134	0	0.0
Clayton	1,278	0	0.0
Clinton	3,531	2	56.6
Crawford	1,363	1	73.4
Dallas	1,931	1	51.8
Davis	578	0	0.0
Decatur	798	1	125.3
Delaware	1,246	0	0.0
Des Moines	2,844	3	105.5
Dickinson	867	0	0.0
Dubuque	6,809	2	29.4
Emmet	968	2	207.4
Fayette	1,491	1	67.1
Floyd	1,141	0	0.0
Franklin	691	0	0.0
Fremont	590	0	0.0
Greene	591	0	0.0
Grundy	720	0	0.0
Guthrie	656	0	0.0
Hamilton	1,039	0	0.0
Hancock	836	0	0.0
Hardin	1,573	0	0.0
Harrison	993	1	100.7
Henry	1,350	3	222.2
Howard	580	0	0.0
Humboldt	649	0	0.0
Ida	540	0	0.0
Iowa	838	0	0.0
Jackson	1,420	2	140.8
Jasper	2,321	2	86.2
Jefferson	988	2	202.4
Johnson	8,758	3	34.3
Jones	1,295	0	0.0
Keokuk	748	1	133.7
Kossuth	1,202	0	0.0
Lee	2,471	4	161.9
Linn	12,291	2	16.3
Louisa	818	0	0.0
Lucas	595	1	168.1
Lyon	837	0	0.0
Madison	929	1	107.6
Mahaska	1,480	1	67.6
Marion	2,386	0	0.0
Marshall	2,548	1	39.2
Mills	576	0	0.0
Mitchell	735	0	0.0
Monona	619	2	323.1
Monroe	522	0	0.0
Montgomery	786	1	127.2
Muscatine	2,874	3	104.4
O'Brien	989	2	202.2
Osceola	486	0	0.0
Page	1,132	1	88.3
Palo Alto	811	1	123.3
Plymouth	1,754	1	57.0
Pocahontas	563	0	0.0
Polk	21,721	13	59.8
Pottawattamie	5,854	2	34.2
Poweshiek	1,709	1	58.5
Ringgold	316	0	0.0
Sac	727	0	0.0
Scott	10,560	2	18.9
Shelby	894	1	111.9
Sioux	2,683	2	74.5
Story	7,985	2	25.3
Tama	1,145	2	174.7
Taylor	474	0	0.0
Union	995	2	201.0
Van Buren	450	0	0.0
Wapello	2,508	1	39.9
Warren	2,934	0	0.0
Washington	1,220	1	82.0
Wayne	389	1	257.1
Webster	2,724	1	36.7
Winnebago	1,087	0	0.0
Winneshiek	1,994	2	100.3
Woodbury	7,220	7	97.0
Worth	494	0	0.0
Wright	837	2	239.0
Iowa (1991)	**199,416**	**105**	**52.7**
United States (1989)			69.3

Births to

In just a one-year period, from 1990 to 1991, there was a dramatic increase in the proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds giving birth in Iowa. In 1990, the birth rate was 2.7% among 16- and 17-year-olds,

County	Age 16-17 Female Pop.	Live Births	Birth Percentage
Adair	110	2	1.8%
Adams	69	1	1.4%
Allamakee	190	1	0.5%
Appanoose	197	6	3.0%
Audubon	92	1	1.1%
Benton	278	7	2.5%
Black Hawk	1,554	72	4.6%
Boone	295	11	3.7%
Bremer	336	1	0.3%
Buchanan	303	5	1.7%
Buena Vista	243	4	1.6%
Butler	225	3	1.3%
Calhoun	152	0	0.0%
Carroll	295	5	1.7%
Cass	201	2	1.0%
Cedar	211	3	1.4%
Cerro Gordo	565	18	3.2%
Cherokee	225	4	1.8%
Chickasaw	190	4	2.1%
Clarke	132	2	1.5%
Clay	205	3	1.5%
Clayton	301	5	1.7%
Clinton	682	21	3.1%
Crawford	279	5	1.8%
Dallas	399	11	2.8%
Davis	117	3	2.6%
Decatur	97	3	3.1%
Delaware	293	6	2.0%
Des Moines	524	30	5.7%
Dickinson	163	1	0.6%
Dubuque	1,262	29	2.3%
Emmet	188	3	1.6%
Fayette	304	8	2.6%
Floyd	232	4	1.7%
Franklin	156	4	2.6%
Fremont	109	1	0.9%
Greene	118	5	4.2%
Grundy	166	2	1.2%
Guthrie	165	4	2.4%
Hamilton	206	7	3.4%
Hancock	179	2	1.1%
Hardin	218	4	1.8%
Harrison	232	6	2.6%
Henry	259	7	2.8%
Howard	124	1	0.8%
Humboldt	141	1	0.7%
Ida	117	1	0.9%
Iowa	169	2	1.2%
Jackson	300	7	2.3%
Jasper	466	14	3.0%
Jefferson	179	6	3.4%

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Teens

but by 1991, the rate had jumped to 3.1%. This represents an increase of 14.8%. In numbers, this increase translates to 137 more births among 16- and 17-year-old parents in 1991.

County	Age 16-17 Female Pop.	Live Births	Birth Percentage
Johnson	821	15	1.8%
Jones	248	3	1.2%
Keokuk	153	6	3.9%
Kossuth	289	2	0.7%
Lee	519	13	2.5%
Linn	2,181	70	3.2%
Louisa	183	7	3.8%
Lucas	112	4	3.6%
Lyon	182	0	0.0%
Madison	174	1	0.6%
Mahaska	282	9	3.2%
Marion	272	6	2.2%
Marshall	531	13	2.4%
Mills	210	3	1.4%
Mitchell	154	3	1.9%
Monona	122	6	4.9%
Monroe	100	7	7.0%
Montgomery	163	3	1.8%
Muscatine	543	20	3.7%
O'Brien	192	5	2.6%
Osceola	112	1	0.9%
Page	208	4	1.9%
Palo Alto	138	6	4.3%
Plymouth	325	3	0.9%
Pocahontas	111	0	0.0%
Polk	4,078	185	4.5%
Pottawattamie	1,103	54	4.9%
Poweshiek	251	7	2.8%
Ringgold	79	0	0.0%
Sac	166	1	0.6%
Scott	2,089	111	5.3%
Shelby	209	2	1.0%
Sioux	422	6	1.4%
Story	666	12	1.8%
Tama	269	7	2.6%
Taylor	102	3	2.9%
Union	182	6	3.3%
Van Buren	76	3	3.9%
Wapello	460	15	3.3%
Warren	596	15	2.5%
Washington	257	3	1.2%
Wayne	81	5	6.2%
Webster	508	19	3.7%
Winnebago	159	4	2.5%
Winneshiek	256	1	0.4%
Woodbury	1,346	71	5.3%
Worth	101	2	2.0%
Wright	170	4	2.4%
Iowa (1991)	**36,106**	**1,102**	**3.1%**
United States			N.A.

Teen Unmarried Births

The proportion of all Iowa births to unmarried teens, at 7.8%, is near the national average of 8.6%. This proportion, however, is increasing at a much greater rate than the national average and will, at this current rate, surpass the national percentage by the year 2000. Moreover, teen unmarried parenting is a powerful predictor of most of the other indicators of child well-being presented here.

County	Live Births	Teen Unm. Births	Teen Unm. %
Adair	87	2	2.3%
Adams	64	3	4.7%
Allamakee	174	6	3.4%
Appanoose	170	17	10.0%
Audubon	76	4	5.3%
Benton	536	18	5.6%
Black Hawk	1,732	219	12.6%
Boone	312	22	7.1%
Bremer	237	15	6.3%
Buchanan	302	15	5.0%
Buena Vista	265	18	6.8%
Butler	162	7	4.3%
Calhoun	111	4	3.6%
Carroll	278	20	7.2%
Cass	205	11	5.4%
Cedar	217	9	4.1%
Cerro Gordo	621	53	8.5%
Cherokee	153	11	7.2%
Chickasaw	166	6	3.6%
Clarke	105	8	7.6%
Clay	258	10	3.9%
Clayton	254	12	4.7%
Clinton	685	59	8.6%
Crawford	205	12	5.9%
Dallas	426	26	6.1%
Davis	127	5	3.9%
Decatur	94	7	7.4%
Delaware	271	15	5.5%
Des Moines	580	66	11.4%
Dickinson	163	6	3.7%
Dubuque	1,231	80	6.5%
Emmet	155	7	4.5%
Fayette	295	19	6.4%
Floyd	221	18	8.1%
Franklin	130	11	8.5%
Fremont	107	12	11.2%
Greene	124	9	7.3%
Grundy	136	7	5.1%
Guthrie	138	10	7.2%
Hamilton	220	20	9.1%
Hancock	157	10	6.4%
Hardin	209	12	5.7%
Harrison	201	10	5.0%
Henry	237	20	8.4%
Howard	114	7	6.1%
Humboldt	104	7	6.7%
Ida	100	4	4.0%
Iowa	208	10	4.8%
Jackson	286	16	5.6%
Jasper	471	31	6.6%
Jefferson	186	9	4.8%

County	Live Births	Teen Unm. Births	Teen Unm. %
Johnson	1,358	42	3.1%
Jones	255	6	2.4%
Keokuk	176	11	6.3%
Kossuth	226	8	3.5%
Lee	494	41	8.3%
Linn	2,632	219	8.3%
Louisa	148	16	10.8%
Lucas	111	7	6.3%
Lyon	156	0	0.0%
Madison	158	5	3.2%
Mahaska	300	20	6.7%
Marion	364	17	4.7%
Marshall	458	42	9.2%
Mills	170	12	7.1%
Mitchell	148	7	4.7%
Monona	135	14	10.5%
Monroe	111	11	9.9%
Montgomery	138	11	8.0%
Muscatine	676	55	8.1%
O'Brien	176	7	4.0%
Osceola	107	7	6.5%
Page	179	16	8.9%
Palo Alto	111	13	11.7%
Plymouth	296	19	6.4%
Pocahontas	104	3	2.9%
Polk	5,494	502	9.1%
Pottawattamie	1,299	140	10.8%
Poweshiek	257	17	7.2%
Ringgold	53	2	3.8%
Sac	145	9	6.2%
Scott	2,409	308	12.8%
Shelby	126	3	1.9%
Sioux	439	18	4.1%
Story	910	25	2.8%
Tama	213	25	11.7%
Taylor	63	4	6.3%
Union	143	12	8.4%
Van Buren	58	4	6.9%
Wapello	481	27	5.6%
Warren	539	28	5.2%
Washington	277	12	4.3%
Wayne	78	5	6.4%
Webster	563	52	9.2%
Winnebago	136	3	2.2%
Winneshiek	252	8	3.2%
Woodbury	1,625	185	11.3%
Worth	99	7	7.1%
Wright	188	12	6.4%
Iowa (1991)	**38,925**	**3,036**	**7.8%**
United States (1989)			8.6%

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Foster Care

Foster care placement rates vary widely across Iowa counties because they measure both the rates of abuse, neglect and delinquency among children and local philosophies toward addressing those problems. Facing a dramatic growth in foster care expenditures over the last six years, the state instituted a "cap" on foster care placements in 1992-93 (a monthly average of 1,405 children) and placement rates will reflect this action in later years.

County	Child Population	Foster Care	Foster Care Rate
Adair	2,111	1	0.5
Adams	1,189	0	0.0
Allamakee	3,774	13	3.4
Appanoose	3,458	32	9.3
Audubon	1,873	8	4.3
Benton	6,219	34	5.5
Black Hawk	31,402	242	7.7
Boone	6,169	31	5.0
Bremer	5,762	9	1.6
Buchanan	6,419	18	2.8
Buena Vista	5,175	31	6.0
Butler	4,149	9	2.2
Calhoun	2,889	3	1.0
Carroll	6,359	12	1.9
Cass	3,880	19	4.9
Cedar	4,633	13	2.8
Cerro Gordo	11,570	79	6.8
Cherokee	3,827	14	3.7
Chickasaw	3,737	8	2.1
Clarke	2,168	12	5.5
Clay	4,804	25	5.2
Clayton	5,322	14	2.6
Clinton	13,619	65	4.8
Crawford	4,617	30	6.5
Dallas	8,286	29	3.5
Davis	2,262	6	2.7
Decatur	1,941	15	7.7
Delaware	5,540	20	3.6
Des Moines	10,952	42	3.8
Dickinson	3,506	21	6.0
Dubuque	23,401	144	6.2
Emmet	3,073	19	6.2
Fayette	5,780	20	3.5
Floyd	4,425	26	5.9
Franklin	2,926	7	2.4
Fremont	2,146	1	0.5
Greene	2,486	12	4.8
Grundy	3,077	6	1.9
Guthrie	2,723	8	2.9
Hamilton	5,081	26	5.4
Hancock	3,561	9	2.5
Hardin	4,775	26	5.4
Harrison	3,959	14	3.5
Henry	4,847	17	3.5
Howard	2,629	3	1.1
Humboldt	2,742	6	2.2
Ida	2,334	4	1.7
Iowa	3,745	13	3.5
Jackson	5,565	20	3.6
Jasper	8,912	38	4.3
Jefferson	3,987	15	3.8
Johnson	19,347	89	4.6
Jones	4,990	21	4.2
Keokuk	3,021	19	6.3
Kossuth	5,215	16	3.1
Lee	9,971	55	5.5
Linn	42,430	267	6.3
Louisa	3,162	22	7.0
Lucas	2,234	9	4.0
Lyon	3,614	5	1.4
Madison	3,444	7	2.0
Mahaska	5,624	58	10.3
Marion	7,684	22	2.9
Marshall	9,598	50	5.2
Mills	3,625	36	9.9
Mitchell	2,848	3	1.1
Monona	2,456	11	4.5
Monroe	2,059	11	5.3
Montgomery	2,974	14	4.7
Muscatine	11,140	42	3.8
O'Brien	4,124	8	1.9
Osceola	1,979	10	5.1
Page	4,214	25	5.9
Palo Alto	2,848	11	3.9
Plymouth	6,792	10	1.5
Pocahontas	2,478	10	4.0
Polk	81,971	434	5.3
Pottawattamie	22,527	125	5.5
Poweshiek	4,663	20	4.3
Ringgold	1,298	10	7.7
Sac	3,278	11	3.4
Scott	42,187	232	5.5
Shelby	3,586	8	2.2
Sioux	8,941	15	1.7
Story	14,680	49	3.3
Tama	4,548	29	6.4
Taylor	1,822	0	0.0
Union	3,292	20	6.1
Van Buren	2,015	6	3.0
Wapello	8,568	94	11.0
Warren	10,186	47	4.6
Washington	5,254	35	6.7
Wayne	1,657	7	4.2
Webster	10,483	70	6.7
Winnebago	3,090	11	3.6
Winneshiek	5,131	7	1.4
Woodbury	27,579	347	12.6
Worth	1,982	7	3.5
Wright	3,485	15	4.3
Iowa (1991)	718,880	3,719	5.2
United States (1990)			6.4

High School

The proportion of Iowa students who graduate from high school without dropping out ranks Iowa high among states in the country—seventh according to the 1992 National Kids Count report. Despite demands for an increas-

County	Avg. Class Size	Graduates	Graduation Percentage
Adair	87	84	96.6%
Adams	50	41	82.0%
Allamakee	206	181	87.9%
Appanoose	182	141	77.5%
Audubon	86	78	90.7%
Benton	295	265	89.8%
Black Hawk	1,278	785	61.4%
Boone	273	252	92.3%
Bremer	410	393	95.9%
Buchanan	242	223	92.1%
Buena Vista	237	207	87.3%
Butler	191	178	93.2%
Calhoun	177	164	92.7%
Carroll	188	178	94.7%
Cass	222	196	88.3%
Cedar	262	240	91.6%
Cerro Gordo	484	388	80.2%
Cherokee	201	185	92.0%
Chickasaw	179	162	90.5%
Clarke	124	112	90.3%
Clay	249	234	94.0%
Clayton	280	252	90.0%
Clinton	652	477	73.2%
Crawford	249	231	92.8%
Dallas	450	386	85.8%
Davis	101	88	87.1%
Decatur	107	93	86.9%
Delaware	245	224	91.4%
Des Moines	519	449	86.5%
Dickinson	200	188	94.0%
Dubuque	924	794	85.9%
Emmet	170	154	90.6%
Fayette	334	315	94.3%
Floyd	241	208	86.3%
Franklin	142	123	86.6%
Fremont	120	110	91.7%
Greene	129	119	92.2%
Grundy	168	160	95.2%
Guthrie	184	168	91.3%
Hamilton	218	199	91.3%
Hancock	181	175	96.7%
Hardin	276	258	93.5%
Harrison	225	206	91.6%
Henry	273	246	90.1%
Howard	162	158	97.5%
Humboldt	143	136	95.1%
Ida	108	102	94.4%
Iowa	191	188	98.4%
Jackson	278	252	90.6%
Jasper	461	404	87.6%
Jefferson	133	113	85.0%

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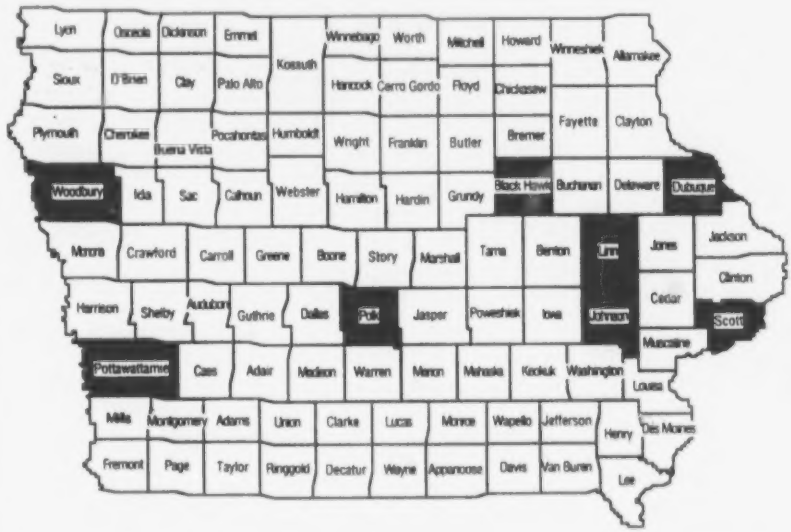
Graduation

ingly well-educated workforce, Iowa graduation rates have remained relatively unchanged for over two decades. In 1970, the graduation rate was 82.6%, compared with 85.0% today.

County	Avg. Class Size	Graduates	Graduation Percentage
Johnson	707	660	93.4%
Jones	245	225	91.8%
Keokuk	168	154	91.7%
Kossuth	184	176	95.7%
Lee	449	366	81.5%
Linn	1,988	1,839	92.5%
Louisa	197	173	87.8%
Lucas	115	101	89.4%
Lyon	162	153	94.4%
Madison	205	184	89.8%
Mahaska	228	200	87.7%
Marion	386	354	91.7%
Marshall	452	382	84.5%
Mills	194	176	90.7%
Mitchell	136	126	92.6%
Monona	139	123	88.5%
Monroe	92	80	87.0%
Montgomery	142	131	89.1%
Muscatine	524	444	84.7%
O'Brien	216	200	92.6%
Osceola	65	58	89.2%
Page	242	201	83.1%
Palo Alto	159	147	92.5%
Plymouth	298	274	91.9%
Pocahontas	135	126	93.3%
Polk	3,534	2,540	71.9%
Pottawattamie	1,038	863	83.1%
Poweshiek	209	176	85.2%
Ringgold	69	66	95.7%
Sac	168	106	95.2%
Scott	1,969	1,429	72.6%
Shelby	181	175	95.0%
Sioux	269	256	95.2%
Story	686	631	91.7%
Tama	245	224	91.4%
Taylor	88	84	95.5%
Union	179	166	92.7%
Van Buren	100	91	91.0%
Wapello	476	406	85.3%
Warren	593	548	90.5%
Washington	245	219	89.4%
Wayne	95	77	81.1%
Webster	399	335	84.0%
Winnebago	197	173	87.8%
Winneshiek	201	192	95.5%
Woodbury	1,201	914	76.1%
Worth	83	76	91.6%
Wright	186	176	94.6%
Iowa (1991)	33,631	28,601	85.0%
United States (1989)			69.6%

Rural, Small Urban & Metropolitan County Comparisons

Many of Iowa's counties are small enough that variations on the eight indicators of child well-being will be pronounced from year to year. For this reason, counties were divided into three county groupings for further analysis: counties with no population center of 5,000 inhabitants or more (designated rural counties), counties with the largest population center being from 5,000 to 49,999 inhabitants (designated small urban counties) and counties with a population center of 50,000 or more inhabitants (designated metropolitan counties).



■ Metropolitan Counties ▩ Small Urban Counties □ Rural Counties

Child Indicators — Rural, Small Urban and Metropolitan Counties and Iowa

	Rural	Small Urban	Metropolitan	Iowa
1990 Context Indicators				
Child Poverty Rate	15.2%	13.5%	13.9%	14.0%
Child Poverty Rate Change from 1980	+2.7%	+19.5%	+39.0%	+21.7%
Female Household with Children Age 0-4 Poverty Rate	66.4%	66.2%	62.3%	64.1%
Age 0-17/Overall Poverty Rate	1.25	1.19	1.23	1.22
1991 Well-Being Indicators				
Infant Mortality Rate	7.4	7.4	8.7	8.0
Low Birthweight Rate	4.7%	5.7%	6.0%	5.7%
Child Death Rate	30.3	24.7	26.3	26.4
Teen Violent Death Rate	60.4	62.6	39.7	52.7
Births to Age 16-17 Women	2.0%	2.4%	4.2%	3.1%
Teen Unmarried Birth Rate	5.8%	6.6%	9.5%	7.8%
Foster Care Rate	3.5	4.7	6.5	5.2
High School Graduation Rate	91.9%	88.2%	77.7%	85.0%

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Part Three:
The Leadership Collaborative —
Setting an Agenda for Action

In December, 1991, the Iowa Kids Count Leadership Collaborative convened in Des Moines to release the 1991 Kids Count Data Book, *World-Class Futures*, and to chart a course of action for 1992. Two-thirds of the 120-member Collaborative attended this Congress to discuss the progress made during 1991 and the challenges facing Iowa children and the Kids Count Initiative during 1992.

At the Congress, collaborative members directed Kids Count staff to make use of Iowa organizations and associations in disseminating Kids Count publications and to convene regional Kids Count meetings to further extend the discussion of important trends in child well-being. Collaborative members also urged Kids Count staff to seek involvement from Iowa's business and corporate community in raising child and family issues to greater public visibility and to develop a media strategy that would stress the importance of child and family issues. Finally, collaborative members stressed the need to develop policy directions and options to improve the well-being of Iowa's children, based upon the trends in child well-being identified through Kids Count.

Following this direction from the Leadership Collaborative, Iowa Kids Count staff concentrated 1992 activities on broadly disseminating Kids Count information, conducting regional meetings, conferring with Iowa business and corporate leaders, and developing a 1993 agenda for Kids Count emphasizing policy directions and options to affect trends in child well-being.

Through a commissioned public opinion poll, the Kids Count Initiative provided policy makers and the public with important information on Iowans' attitudes about children and child and family policy. This poll, published as *Where Iowa's Children Rate*, formed the basis for regional meetings of the Kids Count Leadership Collaborative in July. These meetings provided further feedback to Kids Count staff on developing *Challenging Trends* and the 1992 Kids Count agenda. Four regional meetings of the Leadership Collaborative at the end of 1992 and beginning of 1993 helped establish an agenda for Kids Count 1993 that includes development of a "Blueprint for Iowa's Young" to form the basis of a policy dialogue in the state.

Highlights of 1992 Activity

Leadership Collaborative Congress. The December, 1991 Kids Count Leadership Collaborative Congress capped the first year's activities of Kids Count, which involved both the development of trend data on important indicators of child well-being and the development by the Leadership Collaborative of vision statements regarding Iowa youth.

Following a program offering a national perspective on Iowa's efforts by national Kids Count Director Judy Weitz, Collaborative members set the following as 1992 goals:

- Broadly disseminate *World-Class Futures*, making use of Leadership Collaborative members to distribute it among key constituencies,
- Seek greater involvement from the business community in future Kids Count activities,
- Build upon the vision statements established by the Leadership Collaborative in developing more specific policy statements, and

- Conduct regional meetings to further develop the identity of the Iowa Kids Count Initiative.

These goals were used as the basis for 1992 Kids Count work, which involved dissemination and media activities as well as two sets of regional Kids Count meetings.

1992 Kids Count work involved dissemination and meeting activities as well as two sets of regional Kids Count meetings.

Dissemination. Initially, 5,000 copies of *World-Class Futures* were printed and nearly 3,000 were distributed to state and community policy makers, Collaborative members, libraries, schools, and extension offices. Due to the demand for *World-Class Futures* by a wide variety of state and community organizations, two additional printings were made and over 7,500 copies have been disseminated. In addition, Mike Crawford and Charles Bruner, as Kids Count staff, have presented the information from *World-Class Futures* at over 20 different public forums, including a number of presentations at association meetings.

Given the popularity of *World-Class Futures*, an executive summary of that report was included within the publication of the public opinion poll, *Where Iowa's Children Rate*. Over 3,500 copies of *Where Iowa's Children Rate* have been disseminated.

Media. Media coverage of both publications has been extensive, with stories appearing in over 50 newspapers throughout the state and with Mike Crawford appearing on a half dozen radio programs outlining the results from the poll and the data analysis. In addition to direct coverage of Kids Count publications, the Kids Count Initiative frequently has been called on by the media to provide background data for stories requiring information on the status of Iowa's children and families.

July Regional Meetings. Over 80 Kids Count Leadership Collaborative members participated in four regional meetings conducted in July, 1992 to receive a briefing on the information from the public opinion poll, and to discuss future dissemination and policy development activities for the Kids Count Initiative.

Two of the meetings were conducted in Des Moines, with other meetings in Council Bluffs and Cedar Rapids. The discussion from these meetings was synthesized and used as a basis for developing a work plan for 1993.

December-January Regional Meetings. One hundred Kids Count Leadership Collaborative members participated in winter follow-up meetings to the July regional meetings in Storm Lake, Waterloo, Des Moines and Davenport. These meetings provided Collaborative members with a review of the contents of the 1992 Kids Count report, *Challenging Trends* and presented an outline for a framework paper discussing options for designing new policies for Iowa's youngest children. The purpose of this "Blueprint for Iowa's Young" is to further a public dialogue on Iowa policy toward investments in prenatal care, family support services and early childhood education to improve child well-

being, and to contrast that policy and its implications with the costs of failing to take such steps.

Collaborative members at the meetings agreed that the focus upon the youngest years (prenatal to school age) was appropriate for 1993 Kids Count activity, especially given the current emphasis upon meeting the first national education goal, that "all children start school ready to learn." Members also emphasized that Kids Count should establish a long-term strategy that includes similar work on children at other developmental stages.

Agenda for Action in 1993

The activities undertaken in 1992 under the direction of the Leadership Collaborative have shaped the Iowa Kids Count Initiative agenda for 1993. While including broad-based dissemination of *Challenging Trends* and other Kids Count materials, the 1993 agenda also is based upon the direction provided by the Leadership Collaborative to connect trends in child well-being with policy options and solutions.

In endorsing the development of the "Blueprint for Iowa's Young" at the December and January regional meetings, Leadership Collaborative members called upon Kids Count staff to use the Blueprint as a vehicle for public discussion. In keeping with the mission of the Kids Count Initiative, the "Blueprint" will focus upon "results-oriented, outcome-driven policies" that show evidence for impacting trends in child well-being in a positive direction.

While Kids Count staff are charged with developing the "Blueprint" drafts, the Leadership Collaborative will make decisions regarding its final form and its use in public policy advocacy. A summer "policy summit" hosted by the Kids Count Leadership Collaborative will provide an opportunity for dialogue on the "Blueprint" and its implications, with a special focus at that symposium on the response from the business community.

For 1993, the agenda for Kids Count includes continued tracking, analysis and dissemination of information on important trends in child well-being in Iowa—the first goal for the Kids Count Initiative.

1993 also marks the year the Collaborative will foster public dialogue on developing results-oriented state and community policies to improve the well-being of Iowa's youngest children.

1993 marks the year the Collaborative will foster public dialogue on developing results-oriented state and community policies to improve the well-being of Iowa's youngest children.

Iowa Kids Count Leadership Collaborative

The Iowa Kids Count Steering Committee organizes the work of the Leadership Collaborative, comprised of the following Iowa state and community leaders:

Steering Committee:
Charles Bruner
Harold Coleman
Phil Dunshee
Beth Henning
Mary Nelson
Lesia Oesterreich
Karen Shirer

Members:
Jim Aipperspach
Catherine Alter
Pat Anderson
Robert Anderson
Jon Bales
Nancy Becker
Margaret Borgen
Carol McDanolds Bradley
David Brasher
Patricia Brockett
Florence Buhr
Wendy Burgess
Susan Cameron
Bonnie Campbell
Tony Caponigro
Viney Polite Chandler
Joy Corning
Evelyn Davis
Arlene H. Dayhoff
Wendy Deutelbaum
Linda DeWolf
Dianne Dillon-Ridgley
Joan Vagts Discher
Susan Donielson
Jerry Downin
Robert Dunlop
Larry Eisenhauer
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George Estle
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Jack Fischer
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Marilyn Giese
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Joan Hartung
John Hartung
Mark Haverland
Herman Hein
Joan Hester
Teresa Hindley
Dorothy Holland
Rod Huenemann
Steven Huston
Pat Johnson
Bob Kazimour
Nadine Keith
Angie King
Helen Kopsa
Victor Korelstein
Ginger Kuhl
Molly Kurtz
Marilyn Lantz
Chiquita Lee
Kathy Lee
Sarah Leslie
Myrt Levin
Volker Liebeseller
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John Nahra
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Timothy Ostroski
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Tom Parks
Nell Penick
Karon Perlowski
Elaine Pfalzgraf
Bill Pratt
Jacque Rahe
Michael Reagen
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Mary Richards
R. Wayne Richey
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Diane Roper
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Ralph Rosenberg
Donald Rowen
Lorenzo Sandoval
Pat Schneider
Rita Sealock
Bev Smith
Carl Smith
Donald Snyder
Jack Soener
Paul Stanfield
Mark Stanton
Gary Stokes
Janelle Swanberg
Thomas Swartz
William Theisen
Maureen Tiffany
Maggie Tinsman
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For Further Information

In addition to its annual report on the well-being of Iowa children, the Iowa Kids Count Initiative publishes a quarterly newsletter and is preparing a county-by-county statistical report that includes more detailed information on each of the indicators described in this report. This statistical information also will be available on computer disk, in Lotus 1-2-3, for persons wishing to conduct further analysis.

Persons and organizations wishing to receive further publications of the Iowa Kids Count Initiative should contact Mike Crawford, Project Director, Child and Family Policy Center, 100 Court Avenue, Suite 312, Des Moines, IA 50309 (ph: 515-280-9027; fax:515-243-5941).

Child and Family Policy Center
100 Court Avenue
Suite 312
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

We'd Like Your Comments

Please complete this information, cut, fold and mail to the address on the reverse side.

I believe *Challenging Trends*. . .

will	will not	
____	____	help me in my work.
____	____	contribute to my general knowledge.
____	____	be something I share with others.

In future editions, I would like to see the following changes made to *Challenging Trends* (data presented, manner in which charts and tables are provided, narrative statements, etc.):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

I would like to see *Challenging Trends* disseminated to the following groups or organizations with which I work:

_____

_____

_____

_____

☐ I would like to be placed on the mailing list for future reports from the Iowa Kids Count Initiative.

☐ I would like information on the summer "Kids Count Summit."

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

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Iowa Kids Count
1021 Fleming Building
218 6th Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309